

# Hands of Praise Deaf Church

Pastor Ken Ecker • Pastor Bonnie Elliott

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- You can give an offering online on our website or mail it to our church address
- Tuesday Bible study 6:30pm on Zoom
  - To join the study email pastor@handsofpraise.org
- Ladies Bible study Wednesday April 22, 6:30pm
  - To join the study email bonnie@handsofpraise.org

**April 19, 2026**

## **The Joy of the Lord is Your Strength**

Nehemiah 8:8, 10 They read from the Book of the Teachings of God and explained what it meant so the people understood what was being read. <sup>10</sup> Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy good food and sweet drinks. Send some to people who have none, because today is a holy day to the Lord. Don’t be sad, because the joy of the Lord will make you strong.”

1. We cannot have Joy without God's Joy

Psalm 16:11 You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.

Galatians 5:22 But the Spirit produces the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

2. Joy because He is with you

Joshua 1:9 Remember that I commanded you to be strong and brave. Don’t be afraid, because the Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go.

Zephaniah 3:17 The Lord your God is with you; the mighty One will save you. He will rejoice over you. You will rest in his love; he will sing and be joyful about you.

3. Joy through hard times

James 1:2-3 My brothers and sisters, when you have many kinds of troubles, you should be full of joy, <sup>3</sup> because you know that these troubles test your faith, and this will give you patience.

4. Joy is a Spiritual Weapon

Habakkuk 3:17-18 Fig trees may not grow figs, and there may be no grapes on the vines. There may be no olives growing and no food growing in the fields. There may be no sheep in the pens and no cattle in the barns. <sup>18</sup> But I will still be glad in the Lord; I will rejoice in God my Savior.

Philippians 4:4 Be full of joy in the Lord always. I will say again, be full of joy.